

# Opposing Views

## Science Attachment #1

**The Following Compelling, Indisputable Science Reveals Commercial Timber Harvest Activities Will Inflict Major, Tragic Damage to the Natural Resources in and Downstream from the Sale Area.**

**The experts' statements below are clear and to the point. USFS employees are taught by the agency that logging will solve most problems in the forest, real or cooked up. Of course this is untrue. A few USFS specialists understand this ... yet they choose to play the game to avoid jeopardizing their jobs.**

**The following “Opposing Views” present scientific information that disproves the USFS claim that logging benefits the natural resources in the forest. The idea that logging “restores” the natural resources is absurd. These “Opposing Views” are subject to 40 CFR 1502.9(b).**

**The views are not irresponsible and they weren't adequately discussed or considered in this NEPA document.**

[illegible]

**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "We concluded that commercial timber sales do not meet the criteria for forest restoration." (Pg. 11)

# Western Region Audit Report: Forest Service National Fire Plan Implementation

<http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/08601-26-SF.pdf>

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/watertrain/pdf/issue4.pdf>

3) Logging on national forests **INCREASES** the risk of forest fires more than any other human activity.



<http://www.environmentnow.org/forest.html>

[http://www.newwest.net/topic/article/who\\_will\\_speak\\_for\\_the\\_forests/C564/L564/](http://www.newwest.net/topic/article/who_will_speak_for_the_forests/C564/L564/)

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By Mark G. Scott

A research paper submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF SCIENCE in GEOGRAPHY  
Portland State University, 2001  
<http://www.markscott.biz/papers/grays/chapter1.htm>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Timber harvest will remove dead and dying material from the site and inhibit the recruitment of downed woody material as time progresses. Timber harvest and associated reduced structural complexity and reduced age and size class diversity are all known to reduce population abundance and diversity of ants and a number of birds.

## Applying Ecological Principles to Management of the U.S. National Forests

Published in *Issues in Ecology* Number 6 Spring 2000  
[https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/watershedacademy/applying-ecological-principles-management-us-national-forests\\_.html](https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/watershedacademy/applying-ecological-principles-management-us-national-forests_.html)



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “According to a 1998 poll by a firm that has worked for several Republican House members and two presidents, 69 percent of Americans oppose commercial logging on federally owned land. The Forests Service's own poll showed that 59 percent of Americans who expressed an opinion oppose timber sales and other commodity production in national forests.”

"Many Americans are surprised to learn that logging is even allowed on public lands. Alas, it has been since the Organic Act of 1897 first authorized logging in America's new forest reserves."

## Stop the Logging, Start the Restoration

By John Byrne Barry  
Published in the *The Planet* newsletter, June 1999, Volume 6, Number 5





## Forging a Science-Based National Forest Fire Policy

<http://issues.org/20-1/franklin/>

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<http://projects.seattletimes.com/2016/collateral-damage/>





**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "This is a lesson for USFS employees (with many pictures) who still think its important to sell dead and dying trees in a post-fire landscape before the trees rot and loose value. Of course logging this rare and important habitat to provide corporate profit opportunities is something an intelligent, professional, caring USFS employee would never consider."

**Protection of Post-Fire Habitat**  
Published by the John Muir project, 2014  
<http://johnmuirproject.org/forest-watch/post-fire-habitat/>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "One trust fund often cited by critics is the Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) Fund. This account receives an unlimited portion of timber sale receipts, to be used for reforestation, timber stand improvements, and other resource mitigation and enhancement activities in timber sale areas. Forest Service managers can, therefore, fund their programs from timber sales; in the words of one critic, wildlife managers have an incentive to support timber sales that damage wildlife habitat, because they can use the revenues to mitigate that damage and to keep themselves and their staffs employed. (10)"

**Forest Service Timber Sale Practices and Procedures: Analysis of Alternative Systems**  
By Gorte, Ross W. Ph.D.  
Published by the Library of Congress. A Congressional Research Service, October 30, 1995.  
<https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metacrs233/>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "The fact is, commercial logging doesn't prevent catastrophic fires; it causes them. In the latter part of the 19th century, this was common

It was in this setting that a massive, cataclysmic fire started near Peshtigo, Wisconsin in 1871. More than 1,200 people were killed. Similar blazes erupted in subsequent years.”

<http://yeoldeconsciousnessshoppe.com/art6.html>

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<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233704894> Distribution of Ectomycorrhizae in a Mature Douglas-fir/Larch Forest Soil in Western Montana

[illegible]

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questions the wisdom of top-down decision making (Shindler et al. 1996). More directly, many who identify with this paradigm simply do not trust forest management or research experts—especially those who work for the government (Steel et al. 1992).” (page 29)

### **Shifting Public Values for Forest Management: Making Sense of Wicked Problems**

By Dr. Bruce Shindler, Department of Forest Resources, and Dr. Lori A. Cramer, Department of Sociology, Oregon State University

Reprinted from the *Western Journal of Applied Forestry*, Vol. 14, No. 1, January 1999.

<https://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/lter/pubs/pdf/pub2465.pdf>



### **Timber Harvest Opposing View** "Congress finds the following:

1. Forest Service polls show that a strong majority of the American people think that natural resources on Federal public lands should not be made available to produce consumer goods.
2. Recreation and tourism in the National Forest System creates over 30 times more jobs, and generates over 30 times more income, than commercial logging on national forests.
3. Timber cut from Federal public lands comprises less than 5% of US annual timber consumption.
4. The vast majority of America's original pristine forests have been logged, and what little primary forest that remains exists almost entirely on public lands.
5. It is in the interests of the American people and the international community to protect and restore native biodiversity in our Federal public lands for its inherent benefits.
6. Commercial logging has many indirect costs which are very significant, but not easily measured, such as flooding damage, damage to the salmon fishing industry; and harm to the recreation and tourism industries.

**House Bill H. R. 1494** text. April 4, 2001

[http://www.ontheissues.org/House/Bill\\_Luther\\_Environment.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/House/Bill_Luther_Environment.htm)





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<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/ziemer/Ziemer94a.PDF>

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<http://underc.nd.edu/assets/216499/fullsize/klein2004.pdf>

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**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "In addition to the direct effects of habitat loss and fragmentation, logging typically reduces ecosystem health by:

a) damaging aquatic habitats through siltation, reduction in stream complexity and increased water temperatures."

**Management history of eastside ecosystems: changes in fish habitat over 50 years, 1935-1992**

By B.A. McIntosh, J.R. Sedell, J.E. Smith, R.C. Wissmar, S.E. Clarke, G.H. Reeves, and L.A. Brown

USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, *GTR-321 93-181*, 1994

[http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/pnw\\_gtr321/](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/pnw_gtr321/)



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "Logging practices can indirectly result in changes in the biological components of a stream, and can have direct and indirect on the physical environment in streams.

The primary environmental changes of concern are the effects of siltation, logging debris, gravel scouring, destruction of developing embryos and alevins, blockage of streamflow, decrease in surface and intragravel dissolved oxygen, increase in maximum and diel water temperatures, changes in pool/riffle ratios and cover, redistribution of fishes, reduction in fish numbers, and reduction in total biomass."

**The Alsea Watershed Study: Effects of Logging on the Aquatic Resources of Three Headwater Streams of the Alsea River, Oregon – Part III**

By John R. Moring Ph.D.

*Fishery Report Number 9*, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1975

[http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/ffip/Moring\\_JR1975b.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/ffip/Moring_JR1975b.pdf)



**Timber Harvest Opposing View-**“The Forest Service is deforesting our national timberlands at a rate that rivals Brazil's. What remains of America's original virgin forests is being clipped away daily on our public lands, lands that contain the most biomass per acre of any forests on the planet. We are losing intact ecosystems, watersheds, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, recreation lands, and native-species diversity to a degree that may be irreparable.”

**THE MISMANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS**

By Perri Knize

Published on the *Atlantic Monthly*, October 1991

<https://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/lter/pubs/pdf/pub3296.pdf>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "Agroforestry does reduce biodiversity. In forests used for logging, whole-landscape management is crucial.”

**Forests as Human-Dominated Ecosystems**

By Ian R. Noble and Rodolfo Dirzo Ph.D.

Published in *Science* Vol. 277. No. 5325, pp. 522 - 525. 25 July 1997.

[http://www.sciencemag.org/content/277/5325/522.abstract?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=logging&searchid=1136659907310\\_5043&FIRSTINDEX=0&journalcode=sci](http://www.sciencemag.org/content/277/5325/522.abstract?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=logging&searchid=1136659907310_5043&FIRSTINDEX=0&journalcode=sci)



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “A federal judge has blocked logging proposed for the Klamath National Forest in Siskiyou County, chiding the U.S. Forest Service for its review of the environmental damage that would result.”









**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "Timber harvesting in British Columbia influences (a) forest hydrology; (b) fluvial geomorphology; (c) terrain stability; and (d) integrated watershed behavior. Impacts on forest hydrology are well understood and include increased average runoff, total water yield, increased storm runoff and advances in timing of floods. Stream channels and valley floors are impacted differently by fine sediment, coarse sediment and large woody debris transport. Terrain stability is influenced through gully and mass movement processes that are accelerated by timber harvesting. Impacts on integrated watershed behavior are assessed through disturbed sediment budgets and lake sediments."

**Assessment of the Geomorphic Impacts of Forestry in British Columbia**

By Olav Slaymaker Ph.D.

Published in *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment* 29(7):381-387. 2000

<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1579/0044-7447-29.7.381>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** This link contains photos of logging around the world. Can you guess which 7 were taken of the after-effects of a timber sale in national forest land?

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=logging+impact+on+environment&qv=on+environment>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "After logging, peak pipeflow was about 3.7 times greater than before logging."

"The use of heavy logging equipment was expected to compact the soil, reduce infiltration rates, and increase surface runoff. In addition, heavy equipment might collapse some of the subsurface pipes, increasing local pore water pressure and the chance of landslides (Sidle, 1986)."

**Effect of logging on subsurface pipeflow and erosion: coastal northern California, USA**

By Robert R. Ziemer Ph.D., **an employee of the** Pacific Southwest Research Station,,USDA Forest Service

Proceedings of the Chengdu Symposium, July 1992. *IAHS Publication. No. 209*, 1992

**Open Letter to U.S. Senators and President Obama from Scientists  
Concerned about Post-fire Logging and Clearcutting on National Forests.** September 2015  
Signed by 266 Ph.D. scientists  
<http://johnmuirproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Final2015ScientistLetterOpposingLoggingBills.pdf>

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<http://www.saveamericasforests.org/news/ScientistsStatement.htm>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Extreme disturbances, such as wildfire or tractor logging, cause the loss of nutrients, mycorrhizae, and organic matter. These combined losses reduce long-term site productivity and may lead to sustained periods of extended erosion that could exacerbate degradation.

**The effects of forest management on erosion and soil productivity**

By W.J. Elliot; Page-Dumroese, D.; Robichaud, P.R. 1999.

Proceedings of the Symposium on Soil Quality and Erosion Interaction, Keystone, CO, July 7, 1996

Published by the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station

<http://forest.moscowsl.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/engr/library/searchpub.pl?pub=1999c>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “The lawsuit raises concerns that land managers erred in their finding that the project will not hurt wildlife habitat – particularly that of lynx, bull trout and grizzly bears – and violated the National Environmental Policy Act by never completing an environmental impact statement. The groups have also filed separate legal notices of intent to challenge two similar thinning projects in the Flathead National Forest.”

“The South Fork of the Flathead River is a protected wild and scenic river that is home to lynx, wolverine, grizzly bear, gray wolves, fisher and bull trout. The area was designated as critical habitat for lynx and bull trout and deemed essential the survival and recovery of grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies”

**Conservationists sue over timber sale on Flathead's South Fork**

By TRISTAN SCOTT of the *Missoulian*, Feb 29, 2012

[http://missoulian.com/news/local/conservationists-sue-over-timber-sale-on-flathead-s-south-fork/article\\_c7b0e12e-6287-11e1-b6db-001871e3ce6c.html](http://missoulian.com/news/local/conservationists-sue-over-timber-sale-on-flathead-s-south-fork/article_c7b0e12e-6287-11e1-b6db-001871e3ce6c.html)



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Indeed, the major justifications given for logging public lands is typically some social or ecological benefit—to reduce fires, clean up bug killed trees, fix watersheds, restore forest health or provide for “economic stability” to rural communities. In far too many cases, all of these are just cover to hide the main reason for logging—to maintain the local timber industry at the expense of our forest’s ecological integrity and taxpayer dollars.”

WUERTHNER, GEORGE, **Why are Conservation Groups Advocating Logging Public Forests?**  
Published by *Counterpunch*, September 27, 2012  
<http://www.counterpunch.org/2012/09/27/why-are-conservation-groups-advocating-logging-public-forests/>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Deforestation is clearing Earth's forests on a massive scale, often resulting in damage to the quality of the land. Forests still cover about 30 percent of the world’s land area, but swaths half the size of England are lost each year.”

“Deforestation can have a negative impact on the environment. The most dramatic impact is a loss of habitat for millions of species. Eighty percent of Earth’s land animals and plants [live in forests](#), and many cannot survive the deforestation that destroys their homes.”

**Deforestation**  
Published by *National Geographic*, 2017  
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/deforestation/>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “It is impossible to overstate the importance of humankind's clearing of the forests. The transformation of forested lands by human actions represents one of the great forces in global environmental change and one of the great drivers of biodiversity loss. The impact of people has been and continues to be profound. Forests are cleared, degraded and fragmented by timber harvest, conversion to agriculture, road-building, human-caused fire, and in myriad other ways. The effort to use and subdue the forest has been a constant theme in the transformation of the earth, in many societies, in many lands, and at most times. Deforestation has important implications for life on this planet.”

#### **Global Deforestation**

Published by the University of Michigan

<http://resilience.earth.lsa.umich.edu/units/deforestation/index.html>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Photosynthesis is one of only two significant mechanisms for removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (the other being dissolution into water, leading to destructive ocean acidification). Carbon dioxide is released when trees are cut down, and deforestation accounts for [at least 15 percent](#) of global carbon emissions. Thus, cutting down trees is a double-whammy because we not only lose carbon capture capacity, but we release more carbon, too.”

#### **Trees Are Our Climate Saviors - So Stop Logging on Public Land**

*The Huffington Post*, 02/12/2014

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-moyer-phd/trees-are-our-climate-logging\\_b\\_4775894.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-moyer-phd/trees-are-our-climate-logging_b_4775894.html)



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Logging activities have numerous impacts on aquatic systems in the Sierra Nevada. The end result of logged landscapes is a highly altered forest system which creates significant problems related to erosion, sedimentation and altered stream flow patterns. Logging removes large trees that normally fall into streams and provide shelter and thermal cover, raises water temperatures and pH, and degrades the chemical and ecological conditions and food webs that fish need to survive. Logging and the roads created to facilitate logging also significantly degrade stream ecosystems by introducing high volumes of sediment into streams, changing natural streamflow patterns, and altering stream channel morphology. Areas that have



been logged are far more likely to suffer from major landslides and erosion events which deposit abnormally high levels of sediment into area streams. Roads, ditches, and newly created gullies form new, large networks of flow paths across the landscape. These logged areas therefore, sustain much higher discharge volumes after a storm event than they ever did when the forest was intact.”

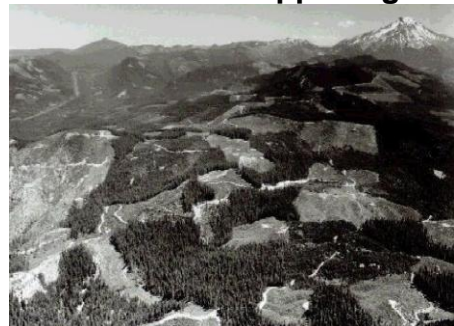
### **Logging Impacts**

Published by Sierra Forest Legacy, 2012

[http://www.sierraforestlegacy.org/FC\\_FireForestEcology/FFE\\_LoggingImpacts.php](http://www.sierraforestlegacy.org/FC_FireForestEcology/FFE_LoggingImpacts.php)



### **Timber Harvest Opposing View**



Forestry  
Photo: NOAA

“Natural resource use and extraction leading to habitat modification can have significant direct and indirect impacts to salmon populations. Land use activities associated with logging, road construction, urban development, mining, agriculture, and recreation have significantly altered fish habitat quantity and quality. Associated impacts of these activities include: alteration of streambanks and channel morphology; alteration of ambient stream water temperatures; degradation of water quality; reduction in available

food supply; elimination of spawning and rearing habitat; fragmentation of available habitats; elimination of downstream recruitment of spawning gravels and large woody debris; removal of riparian vegetation resulting in increased stream bank erosion; and increased sedimentation input into spawning and rearing areas resulting in the loss of channel complexity, pool habitat, suitable gravel substrate, and large woody debris.”

### **Pacific Salmonids: Major Threats and Impacts**

Published by NOAA fisheries Office, May 15, 2014

[http://www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org/sites/default/files/file/us\\_navy\\_new/271N\\_7\\_2014\\_NOAA\\_Pacific\\_Salmonids\\_Major\\_Threats\\_and\\_Impacts\\_Website.pdf](http://www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org/sites/default/files/file/us_navy_new/271N_7_2014_NOAA_Pacific_Salmonids_Major_Threats_and_Impacts_Website.pdf)



## Logging in National Parks and Forests: A contentious Debate

<https://lawstreetmedia.com/issues/energy-and-environment/should-logging-be-encouraged-in-national-parks-and-forests-under-hr-1526/>



**“Logging is linked to increased severity of forest fires.** A scientific study of the Sierra Nevada forests, commissioned and funded by Congress, found that “more than any other human activity, logging has increased the risk and severity of fires by removing the cooling shade of trees and leaving flammable debris.” These logging-caused forest fires cost lives, as well as several hundred million dollars of taxpayer money each year in forest fire-fighting expenses.”

<http://www.mikehudak.com/Articles/BillWouldEndLogging9803.html>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Juneau, AK — Today, the U.S. Forest Service released its long-awaited proposal for amending the Tongass Land Management Plan and the results are disappointing. We will continue to work with the Obama administration to correct the pervasive mistakes in this plan.

Instead of making the promised rapid transition out of old-growth logging, the Forest Service’s proposed plan perpetuates the conflict and controversy of clear-cutting Tongass old-growth forests for at least another 15 years and possibly much longer, destroying the very same forests that support our world-class fishing, hunting, tourism and recreation industries.”

**Forest Service Plan Would Perpetuate Destruction of Tongass Old-Growth**

Published by Earth Justice, June 30, 2016

<https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2016/forest-service-plan-would-perpetuate-destruction-of-tongass-old-growth>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Unfortunately, in this particular case we were forced to go to court to stop the Colt-Summit timber sale, which authorizes 2,038 acres of logging in bull trout, lynx and grizzly bear critical habitat and opens up 17 miles of new or previously closed roads to new noxious weed infestation for the very good reasons listed below.”

“If this so-called “collaborative” proposal heeded existing science and followed federal law, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies wouldn’t have a problem with it. Unfortunately, that’s not the case. Simply put, the agency refuses to listen to well-documented and accurate evidence. Thus, we have asked the Federal District Court to stop this timber sale for the sake of taxpayers and the myriad of old growth dependent species that rely on unlogged national forests.”

**‘Collaborative’ logging proposal destroys wildlife habitat**

Published by *Helena Independent Record*, March 6, 2012



<https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/06/18/protect-our-national-forests-from-an-increase-in-logging/>

<http://www.saveamericasforests.org/resources/Destruction.htm>

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increased peak flows in mountain streams by 20% to 50% The effects diminish gradually, but were still apparent 25 years later. This study was completed BEFORE the recent floods and deals with more normal or average rainfall conditions. It has been extensively peer reviewed and has been termed by colleagues as very persuasive.

Shortly after the floods the Pacific Rivers Council contracted with Pacific Watershed Associations, a well-known and highly respected engineering firm, to do aerial overflight studies of damage watersheds on public lands, with some startling results . The damage was so extensive in many streams that it is likely a whole year class of salmon has been lost. Among those runs most affected are many so severely depressed that they qualify for listing under the endangered species act. The text of the Pacific Watersheds study is included below.

Two days after the flood waters receded, the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE) also did an aerial assessment of its own (using well accepted observer protocols) of the Mapleton Ranger District, and found the following results:

- "A total of 185 landslides from the February 1996 storm were recorded. Of these, 114 were in-unit slides, 68 were road-related slides, and 3 were natural, in-forest slides."
- "On average, road-related slides appeared substantially larger than in-unit slides, which is also consistent with previous studies. Road-related slides also appeared to cause more damage to streams; several large debris torrents were triggered by road failures." "

#### **Streams, Landslides, Logging, Roads and Rain**

Published by Northwest Environment Watch, 1996

<http://members.efn.org/~jpreed/landsl.html>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "Prior to 1905, forests in the United States were rapidly liquidated into profit gained from "building the Nation." In the process, more and more land and species were disappearing from a landscape that once teemed with life and abundance. Teddy Roosevelt became increasingly concerned with conservation and used his authority to protect wildlife and public lands by creating the United States Forest Service (USFS).

The Forest Service was established as an entity with Gifford Pinchot serving as the first chief of the USFS in 1905 "[with a sacred mission to provide wood to the world in order to avert the evils of a "timber famine."](#) Pinchot was central in forming a forest policy and began what he called "the art of producing from the forest whatever it can yield for the service of man." From the beginning, the Forest Service viewed forests as banks the Nation could draw from to increase profit margins. The USFS has consistently, since its beginnings, made decisions based on getting the cut out and turning profits from the forest to the timber industry, stressing that timber needed to be extracted in a way that would prevent a timber famine to ensure the Nation would not bankrupt itself of valuable lumber."

"From the beginning, the Forest Service creates policies based on the idea that the main purpose of forests is to supply timber for the growing Nation while economically benefiting industry. The Service focuses on management to prevent a "timber famine" so those industries can always rely on forest products for their economic stability. This way of perceiving land has dramatically altered, eliminated and damaged the once-intact ecosystems that sustained an incomprehensible diversity of plant and animal species that are now extinct because of that mindset.

The profit-driven mentality causing this destruction is still alive and well within the Forest Service and Congress. Throughout the legislative history of the Forest Service, as is illustrated above, it is clear that budget drives the Forest Service and their policies. When the Forest Service is dependent upon the receipts it gets from timber sales and incentives the government gives the Service to increase logging, it will do what it needs to increase those sales. When environmental laws are passed in order to protect those ecologically significant forests, the industry and the service will do what is necessary to circumvent those laws in order to make a profit even though, in every single case, the government itself is out a huge amount of tax dollars to make those sales happen."

### **Stop Thinning Forests**

<http://stopthinningforests.org/forest-service-history.html>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "Logging national forests is like grinding Mount Rushmore for gravel, or melting the Statue of Liberty for scrap iron," Tim Hermach says. "Yet the U.S. Forest Service is allowing big timber companies to raze our natural heritage for corporate profit."

"What the Forest Service is doing is taking a public resource and selling it off piece by piece to private timber companies. Of the 193 million acres that represent the U.S.



Forest System, half of it is available for logging, according to current management plans. And the Bush Administration and the U.S. Forest Service have been trying their best to get access to the other half. In 2002, Bush introduced the Healthy Forests Initiative, a forest management policy that gave timber companies greater access to our protected lands—under the guise of fire protection—while stripping away public input into the management process. In 2005, Bush repealed the Roadless Rule, a policy set in place by the Clinton Administration to curb road building and logging on our public lands. In that same year, the Forest Service adopted a management policy that excluded itself from certain aspects of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. It's a policy that could have increased logging on our national forests by 80%. The policy was struck down in federal court last year, but the Forest Service adopted a similar plan in the spring of this year. A coalition of conservation groups immediately filed lawsuits again."

### **Logging vs. Recreation**

BY GRAHAM AVERILL

PUBLISHED BY BLUE RIDGE OURDOORS, 01 JUL 08

<https://www.blueridgeoutdoors.com/magazine/july-2008/logging-vs-recreation/>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** "The logging program on America's national forests cannot be justified on economic grounds because it does more harm than good, two environmental groups said today. Their report, "The Economic Case Against National Forest Logging," argues that cutting down the national forests is a money losing proposition, and that standing trees provide ecosystem functions that are much more valuable than their wood alone."

"The 75 page report - the result of three years of research - analyzes the economic value of ecosystem services provided by standing forests, including flood control, water purification, pest control and pollination. These services, the report argues, contribute many times more economic value to rural communities than logging."

"Logging increases the wildfire risk, many ecologists believe. The Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project's 1996 report notes that, "Timber harvest, through its effects on forest structure, local microclimate and fuels accumulation, has increased fire severity more than any other recent human activity." In 1994, the Forest Service spent almost \$1 billion for fire management on national forest lands."

"A common sense alternative is to protect America's national forests from commercial logging by reinvesting the logging subsidies into economically viable programs,"









**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Forests are vital for the health and well-being of humans, wildlife, and the Earth. They provide habitat for about two-thirds of all land-dwelling animals and plants. Around the world, these critical ecosystems are being ripped apart as a result of a booming demand for furniture, flooring, lumber, and other building materials. Trees are used to make paper, packaging materials, pencils, fuel for cooking and heat, and other wood-based products. In addition to wood products, logging is also occurring at an alarming rate to make room for animal agriculture and subsistence farming, oil and gas extraction, mining operations, and ever-increasing development. The world's natural forests cannot sustain the increasing global demands of current forest management practices.

Years of irresponsible exploitation have destroyed and degraded much of the planet's forests. Half of the Earth's global forest land has already been lost. In the United States, 90 percent of continental indigenous forests have been removed. Around the world, 15 billion trees are being cut down each year. The destruction of important wildlands is displacing communities, endangering habitats of rare and endangered plants and animals, and negatively affecting the environment. Most of the world's remaining indigenous forests are located in Canada, Alaska, Russia and the Northwestern Amazon basin. We must protect what is left before it is too late.”

**LOGGING: CUTTING DOWN WILDLIFE HABITATS**

Published by World Animal Foundation, 2018

<http://www.worldanimalfoundation.org/articles/article/8949999/186689.htm>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “**Habitat destruction** is the process by which natural [habitat](#) is rendered incapable of supporting its native species. In this process, the organisms that previously used the site are displaced or destroyed, reducing [biodiversity](#).<sup>[1]</sup> Habitat destruction by human activity is mainly for the purpose of harvesting [natural resources](#) for industrial production and [urbanization](#). Clearing habitats for [agriculture](#) is the principal cause of habitat destruction. Other important causes of habitat destruction include [mining](#), [logging](#), [trawling](#), and [urban sprawl](#). Habitat destruction is currently ranked as the primary cause of species [extinction](#)

worldwide.<sup>[2]</sup> It is a process of natural environmental change that may be caused by [habitat fragmentation](#), geological processes, [climate change](#)<sup>[1]</sup> or by human activities such as the introduction of [invasive species](#), ecosystem nutrient depletion, and other human activities.”

### **Habitat destruction**

The Wikipedia definition

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habitat\\_destruction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habitat_destruction)



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “According to the WWF, trees can essentially act as anchors for soil. Removing those anchors can make the soil more vulnerable to erosion. Raines also points out that removing trees during clear cutting can also take away the bacteria, worms, and fungi that maintain and treat the forest soil, and removing these organisms may also put other forest plants at an increased risk of illnesses. The degradation of soil is one of the [most pressing environmental issues](#) facing society at present, and clear cutting only contributes to it.”

### **Effects of Clear Cutting**

By Megan Stubblefield

Published by

<https://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/environmental-issues/effects-clear-cutting>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Natural forests are now recognized as dynamic places, subject to natural changes that affect the quantity and quality of available habitat. However, logging has resulted in disturbance on a scale unlike any caused by natural forces. At some time in the last 500 years, 95 percent of all U.S. forests were cut, leaving few old-growth timber stands. Over the last century, much of the North American forests have regrown or been replanted, increasing to 4.6 million km<sup>2</sup> in Canada and U.S. (13 percent of the world’s forest area).”

### **Finding Solutions to Habitat Loss**

Published by Partners in Flight, January 2002

<http://eeinwisconsin.org/content/eeui/101706/HabitatLossSolutions.pdf>



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Today, the loss and degradation of natural habitats can be likened to a war of attrition. Many natural ecosystems are being progressively razed, bulldozed, and felled by axes or chainsaws, until only small scraps of their original extent survive. Forests have been hit especially hard: the global area of forests has been reduced by roughly half over the past three centuries. Twenty-five nations have lost virtually all of their forest cover, and another 29 more than nine-tenths of their forest (MEA 2005). Tropical forests are disappearing at up to 130 000 km<sup>2</sup> a year (Figure 4.1)—roughly 50 football fields a minute.”

**Habitat destruction: death by a thousand cuts**

By William F. Laurance

Published by *Conservation Biology*, 2010

[https://conbio.org/images/content\\_publications/Chapter4.pdf](https://conbio.org/images/content_publications/Chapter4.pdf)



**Timber Harvest Opposing View** “Vegetation removal and logging destroy the structure of the habitat since it takes away the vital materials and natural systems responsible for replenishing and purifying the habitat. Removal of vegetation cover and logging also creates room for soil erosion and decrease stormwater infiltration which leads to the degradation of water quality, further destroying the habitat.”

**What is a Habitat?**

Published on *Earth Eclipse*, 2018

<https://www.eartheclipse.com/ecosystem/reasons-for-habitat-loss-and-destruction.html>

For those who have read this far it should be evident that independent science reveals logging inflicts tragic effects to the forest’s natural resources. Ask yourself why the USFS budget for fire and timber sales is larger than all other line items combined. Now ask yourselves who or what the agency serves. You are

assisting them with the destruction. You are paid well. Is it really worth it? The USFS teaches you logging restores the forest. A few unscrupulous people will believe anything for money won't they?